

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A trim member for an automotive vehicle, comprising:
an air bag door portion;
a tear portion formed in the air bag door portion; and
a door hinge portion protecting plate disposed below and separate from the air bag door portion, protruding toward a side of the tear portion rather than toward a hinge portion of the air bag door portion and having a high break force.
2. (Original) A trim member for an automotive vehicle, comprising:
an air bag door portion;
a tear portion formed in the air bag door portion which is not visible from an outer appearance with a part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion; and
force concentrating means, at least one of the force concentrating means positioned below and separate from the air bag door portion and adjacent to a lower surface side of the air bag door portion, for pushing up at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion when the bag body of the air bag is expanded.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~An interior member~~ The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said force concentrating means is disposed at a lower side of said air bag door portion, and is a metal plate providing a protrusion at least one of an upper surface or a lower surface of a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An interior member~~ The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, wherein said force concentrating means is disposed at a lower side of said air bag door portion and is a metal plate providing a narrow protrusion at an upper surface of a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion when the air body of the air bag is expanded.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An interior member~~ The trim member for an automotive vehicle according to claim 2, ~~wherein~~ wherein:

_____ said force concentrating means is disposed at a lower side of said air bag door portion and is a metal plate providing a distal end portion that abuts, when the air bag body is expanded, at least one side of the air bag door portion located on either side of the part of the tear portion located at the center of the air bag door portion;

_____ a hinge portion of said metal plate is off set ~~toward a side of~~ with respect to said tear portion ~~rather than toward the~~ more than a hinge portion of said air bag door portion; and ~~with respect to the hinge portion of said metal plate, a tear portion side position has more rigidity than a fixing portion of said metal plate and a hinge portion of said metal plate.~~

_____ a portion of the metal plate between the hinge portion and an end opposite the distal end has more rigidity than the hinge portion.